

December 7, 1967

Dear Hal:

No, I haven't expired.....but there have been recent days when I would have rather.

Whatever strain of flu I cultured just before, during, and after your stay here in San Francisco is still with me; its lingering effects are weird, have me punchier than usual. I can still remember your remark about "respiratory infection" while we were working in MacConaugh's offices the night of the 12th. It was too late by then anyway.

The "thing" finally forced me into the hospital down in Carmel, where \$345.00 got me some useless pills and a fierce reprimand by our family doctor.

I figure to get back into full swing by early next week, assuming my self-discipline maintains and I suffer no more relapses. I trust you didn't take a sample home with you for Lil.

In the interim, however, I have been sampling the atmosphere left in your wake, to see what reactions, opinions, etc. et al prevail; when I have finished a complete canvassing (10-14 days) I will commit it all to paper for your review and consideration.

You're right that I never had adequate chance to explore thoughts and ideas with you; your schedule and metabolism pretty well wiped out a chance to get down to specifics. From my standpoint, however, I gained considerable insight into your modus operandi and attitudes.

Let me say first off that (1) I have learned not to stick my 2¢'s into the academics, and (2) there must be better handling of your relations with both the press and business communities. While we must both be tokenly conversant in both spheres, it is most obvious where our fortes should be applied. For my part, my apologies for sliding my snout into your bailewicke.

I am (once again) redrafting the ALFIE partnership to accomodate your time ultimatum of January 1st, which is an impossible time schedule for me to guarantee mobility. In essence, then, I am going to stipulate that you shall maintain the option to make outside publishing arrangements should the partnership be unable to do so in time. ALFIE will share in only those areas of profit derived from its immediate supervision. This will keep you from being hamstrung by possible ambivalence.

On other fronts: Josiah Thompson's Post piece was an excellent vehicle in so far as its communicating to the general press and public; granted, it's a generic steal-job from WW I, but it's in the right place at the right time.

After looking at the Meagher and Thompson books, the more I am convinced that you must turn to hardcover; the prestige factor, alone, demands this. I am toying with this general concept:

1. Your 1st four books should be reprinted in a (two-volume?) hardcover edition, edited and/or updated where necessary. They should be entitled simply as WHITEWASH, with sectional subtitles for the previous edition categorization, and re-subtitled into the various chapters. This should be done and ready to market by the time Garrison (whose Foreword would be used) gets into court.
2. Your remaining books (sans TIGER) should be ready for marketing within a month's time after the trial concludes; this would include a finale of the Garrison case, which only you could grind out in time. This book (or books) would be pre-promoted at the end of the first ones on a pre-publishing offer basis.

The above is not just idle thought twirling; I have probed about and it reads consensus. Unless you are able to climb into the authorship fray in the acceptable style - your colleague-parasite-hanger-oner element is going to bury you with your own sweat.

Bill Turner is coming out in the January Ramparts with another major (?) piece; this one, Warren Hinkle tells me, will name names, dates and places in both New Orleans and Texas. Met Turner; a bright man.

All the above is indicative of only one thing: Payoff day~~x~~ looms.

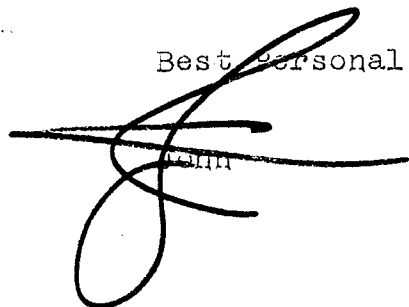
Lee Rashall (ABC) tells me that the first two eschelons locally are much impressed by my presentation/proposal. I don't expect to hear any official response from them until after the 1st of the year.

I'm playing with a token newspaper ad (enclosed) to see what the week of running will bring; this is merely to check the level of concern, rather than \$\$\$ return; I figure to drop \$140 on this as an experiment.

Verb has been waiting patiently for me to converse with him - and I must do so this next week; this is a valuable man all round, I feel; somewhere I intend to find a place for him in ALFIE.

More when my other senses return; my best to the lovely spouse.

Best personal Regards,

A large, stylized handwritten signature, possibly reading 'John', is written over the closing text.